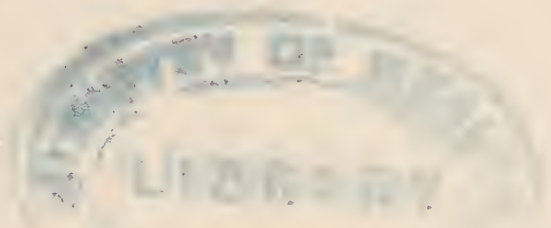


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WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1946



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Wigan Rural District Council

Chairman :

E. T. HAMPSON, ESQ. J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

R. I. RANDALL, ESQ.

Councillors :

J. H. GILL, ESQ.

H. R. DEARDEN, ESQ.

J. GRAHAM, ESQ.

C. BAYBUTT, ESQ.

Clerk :

ROBERT GASKELL, A.L.A.A.

Staff Public Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DOROTHY M. JAMES, M.D., D.P.H.

Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLDING.

Water Inspector :

W. R. WRIGHT.

Bank Chambers,

Wallgate,

Wigan, 1947.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Wigan
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report for the year 1946.

As in the previous year, the Report has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular. I wish to thank you for your very kindly interest taken in all matters affecting the Health and Sanitation of the District. I also take this opportunity of thanking Mr. J. Holding and other members of the Staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DOROTHY M. JAMES,

M.D., D.P.H.

Wigan Rural District Council

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population, mid-1946	7,510
Acreage of Townships	11,696
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,265
Rateable Value	£41,332
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£163

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate)	67	58	125
(Illegitimate)	4	2	6
Total	71	60	131
Stillbirths (Legitimate)	3	—	3
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
Total.....	3	—	3

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 17.4
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales 19.1
Total Birth Rate (Live and Still) 22.0
Number of Stillbirths was 3 compared with 1 in 1945.
The Total Number of Live Births was 131 compared with 116 in 1945, the Live Birth Rate per 1,000 was therefore, 17.4 for 1946 compared with 16.2 in 1945.

Mean of 5 years 1941-1945 was	16.5
Year 1945 was	16.2
Year 1946 was	17.4
Increase in 1946 on 5 year's average was	0.9
Increase in 1946 on 1945 was	1.2

DEATHS.

There were 88 deaths, 52 Males and 36 Females, during 1946 compared with 93, 49 Males and 44 Females, in 1945.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	11.7
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.5
Mean of 5 years 1941-45	11.8
Year 1945.....	12.9

Deaths from all causes—*contd.*

Year 1946.....	11.7
Decrease in 1946 on 5 year's average	0.1
Decrease in 1946 on 1945	1.2
Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—	
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	Nil.
Other Maternal Causes	1
Total Maternal mortality.....	1
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	7.63
Mean of 5 years 1941-45	4.6
Year 1945.....	8.62
Year 1946.....	7.63
Increase in 1946 on 5 year's average	3.03
Decrease in 1946 on 1945	0.99
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	7.46
Mean of 5 years 1941-45 per 1,000 total (live and still) births	4.52
Year 1945.....	8.54
Year 1946.....	7.46
Increase in 1946 on 5 year's average	2.94
Decrease in 1946 on 1945	1.08

CANCER.—10 deaths, 5 Males and 5 Females, occurred in 1946 compared with 11, 7 Males and 4 Females in 1945.

Death Rate from Cancer per 1,000 estimated population	1.33
Mean of 5 years 1941-45	1.52
Year 1945.....	1.53
Year 1946.....	1.33
Decrease in 1946 on 5 year's average	0.19
Decrease in 1946 on 1945	0.20

INFANTILE DEATHS.

3 Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (2 males, 1 female) occurred in 1946 compared with 8 in 1945. All were Legitimate.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	22
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	24
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
The Rate for England and Wales of all Infants per 1,000	

live Births was 43

Mean of 5 years 1941-1945	59
Year 1945.....	68
Year 1946.....	22
Decrease in 1946 on 5 year's average	37
Decrease in 1946 on 1945	46

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :—

	Males	Females
Measles (all ages)	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil	Nil
Diarrhoea (Under 2 years of age)	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	Nil
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	Nil
Syphilitic Diseases	1	Nil
Influenza	Nil	1
Cancer all sites	5	5
Diabetes	1	Nil
Intra-Cranial vascular lesions	8	6
Heart Disease	17	16
Other diseases of the circulatory system	2	Nil
Bronchitis	5	1
Pneumonia	2	Nil
Nephritis	1	2
Puerperal and post-abortionals sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	Nil	1
Premature Birth	1	Nil
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries	—	—
Infantile Diseases	1	1
Suicide.....	Nil	Nil
Road Traffic Accident	Nil	Nil
Other Violent Causes	1	Nil
All other causes	4	3
All Causes	52	36

The Number of Deaths in each Township was as follows :—

Shevington	34
Wrightington	20
Parbold	12
Haigh	12
Dalton	6
Worthington	4
	88

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1946.

Disease	Total Ages	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	Over 65-	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	3						1	2								
Diphtheria	2	1					1	1								
Whooping Cough	4			2		1	1									
Pneumonia	2											1	1			
Chicken-Pox	4			1			3									
TOTALS	15	1		3		1	5	3				1	1	2	Nil.	Nil.

Distribution over the several Parishes was as follows :—

Wrightington.

Scarlet Fever	3 cases
Pneumonia	1 „
Chicken Pox	1 „
Diphtheria	2 „
	7

Worthington Nil

Haigh.

Whooping Cough	2 cases
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Shevington.

Chicken Pox	2 cases.
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Parbold.

Whooping Cough	2 cases
Pneumonia	1 case
Chicken-Pox	1 „

Dalton Nil

DIPHTHERIA.—There were two cases of Diphtheria notified occurring in a child 10 years and an infant of 11 months. Neither had been immunised.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.— The Immunisation of children against diphtheria was continued during the year 1946, and I am able to report that there has been a good response by the parents of the Rural District. The campaign is still being pressed with vigour. School children are treated at the Schools with the co-operation of the Head Teachers, while the pre-school children are treated either at the schools or at the Child Welfare Centre. The injections are given by the Medical Officer of Health, assisted by the School Nurse. The immunising agent is Alum precipitated toxoid in doses of 0.2 c.c. followed by 0.5 c.c. a month later. At the age of 5 years a further dose of 0.5 c.c. is given to keep up the child's immunity.

Total number of children Immunised since the commencement of the Scheme in October, 1940.

Ages	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	Total
Under 1 year	1	3	—	1	1	2	6	14
1 year	4	26	28	53	25	34	44	214
2 years	5	30	15	16	8	7	13	94
3 „	8	34	20	15	1	1	10	89
4 „	2	26	23	17	2	—	5	75
5 „	12	90	34	11	6	5	3	161
6 „	11	69	15	11	2	6	7	121
7 „	28	64	6	7	—	2	10	117
8 „	19	48	7	4	—	—	16	94
9 „	23	57	8	3	2	—	2	95
10 „	32	45	5	1	—	—	4	87
11 „	25	48	6	—	—	—	3	82
12 „	19	45	7	2	—	—	1	74
13 „	12	34	2	3	—	—	2	53
14 „	4	2	—	3	—	—	1	10
	205	621	176	147	47	57	127	1,380

98 Children received a third injection during 1946, bringing the total to 209.

Distribution over the several parishes was as follows :—

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Wrightington	50	135	51	35	14	19	52
Dalton	38	40	8	—	1	1	7
Parbold	21	75	16	17	4	12	5
Shevington	82	332	82	83	27	18	56
Worthington	—	23	9	7	1	1	6
Haigh	14	16	10	5	—	6	1
	<u>205</u>	<u>621</u>	<u>176</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>127</u>

TUBERCULOSIS.—The notifications received during the Year under the Public Health (T.B) Regulations, 1930, were as follows :—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-over	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>

Notification of the Disease is prompt and satisfactory. The County Council provide facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Tuberculosis Dispensary for the Wigan Rural District is in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own Doctor or by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System was 0.26.

The mean of 5 Years, 1941 to 1945 was 0.23

The Year 1945 was 0.13

The Year 1946 was 0.26

Increase on the 5 Years' average was..... 0.03

Increase in 1945 on 1946 was 0.13

SCHOOLS.

A School Clinic is provided by the County Council at Ashfield House, Standish, where children may attend for inspection and treatment of minor ailments, and an Ophthalmic Session is held once a fortnight. The Clinic has been very well attended.

The Clinic is open for these purposes as follows :—

Monday 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon. School Minor Ailment Clinic
Medical Officer and Nurse
attends.

Thursday 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon. Minor Ailment Clinic (Nurse
only.)

Friday (fortnightly) 1-30 p.m. Ophthalmic Clinic.

The Routine Medical Inspections of children in the Schools are carried out by the Medical Officer in her capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer of Health. Close co-operation exists between the Medical Officer of Health, the School Teachers and the School Attendance Officer, the latter supplies a weekly return of the children who are absent from School through sickness. The County Health Visitor follows up the cases for whom the Medical Officer recommends treatment at the time of the school inspections. The Nurse also visits the parents to give advice to cases in which the standard of cleanliness etc. is unsatisfactory. Meals are now provided for the children in all the schools.

SCHOOL CLOSURES—It has not been necessary to close any school during the past year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—An Infant Welfare Clinic is provided by the County Council at the Parish Rooms, Shevington. The Medical Officer attends one Tuesday a month, and the Health Visitor each Tuesday from 1-30 to 4-0 p.m.

The Milk Officer also attends the Clinic on the above dates. for the purpose of distributing Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices, under the Government Scheme.

The County Council Health Visitor, who is also the School Nurse, undertakes the visiting of all newly-born infants in the district. The Ante-Natal Clinic at Ashfield House, Standish, serves the residents of the Wigan Rural District, and I am pleased to report it has been very well attended. The Clinic is held every Monday, with the exception of the first Monday in the month, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Midwives attend each session.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY. A good supply of Water is available in all Parishes, though there are still isolated houses which have their own private supplies.

The Parishes obtain supplies from the following sources :—

HAIGH	Blackrod U.D.C.	} Upland Surface Water
WORTHINGTON	Standish U.D.C.	
SHEVINGTON	Standish U.D.C.	
PARBOLD	Own Supply	Deep Well Water
WRIGHTINGTON	Own Supply	Deep Well Water
	and	Spring Water.
DALTON	Wrightington	do.

Table showing Consumption by Trade and Domestic Users.

Parish	Estimated “ Water ” Population	Average Daily Consumption (in gallons)			Average Consumption per day per head of “ Water ” Population.		
		Domestic	Trade	Supplied to other Districts	Domestic	Trade	Total
WRIGHTINGTON	2,480	49,466	14,600	Bispham3636	19.95	5.88	25.83
SHEVINGTON	3,100	62,889	10,422		20.29	3.36	23. 65
PARBOLD	932	22,939	3,004		24.61	3.22	27.83
HAIGH	769	9,729	26,635	To Aspull 6,375	12.65	34.64	47.29
DALTON	403	4,761	6,002		11.81	14.89	26.70
TOTAL	7,684	149,784	60,663	Averages	19.49	7.9	27.39

60,663

Average Daily Total 210,447

The following table gives an analyses of water supplies :—

Analyses of Water Supplies at 31st December, 1945.			
Parish.	Number of Houses		Total
	On Public Supply	On Private Supplies, Wells etc.	
Dalton	107	35	142
Haigh	222	1	223
Parbold	249	15	264
Shevington	883	—	883
Worthington	42	10	52
Wrightington	621	80	701
Totals	2,124	141	2,265

CONVERSIONS.—During the year 4 privy closets were converted to fresh W.C.s and 6 to pails. Movable ashbins were provided to 6 houses to replace ashpits.

The Council do not contribute towards the cost of conversions, and all the foregoing have been done in response to informal notices.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Scavenging of the district is carried out by direct labour, and the Council's own Motor Wagon.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.—Building Development re-commenced on a small scale during the year. Drainage is discharged into Septic Tanks, and the effluent into the nearest watercourse, or in some instances into the Council's Sewer.

NEW BUILDINGS.—During 1946, 20 new dwelling houses were erected in the Rural District.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Lime washing is carried out twice during the year or as often as may be necessary. The number of Cowkeepers who are Accredited Producers is 9.

MILK SAMPLING.—Samples are taken quarterly by the Sanitary Inspector of all milk in the district supplied to School Children.

No. of Dairy Farms in the District	85
Approximate Number of Cows	500
No. of Cowkeepers (including Dairy Farms)	139
Number on Register	139
Number of Inspections during the year	50
Dairymen other than Cowkeepers	6
Number on Register	6

MEAT INSPECTIONS.—There are two registered slaughter houses with shops attached. Periodic inspections are made and any unsound meat rejected.

DOROTHY M. JAMES.
Medical Officer of Health.

